

Romeo and Juliet Guided Reading Questions

ACT 1 QUESTIONS

Prologue (page 735)

1. What is the setting of this story?

2. In the Prologue, what does the chorus say will happen to the two lovers?

3. Why are Romeo and Juliet called "star-cross'd lovers"?

Scene 1 (pages 736-744)

4. Who is Escalus, and what does Escalus say he will do to anyone who fights in the future?

5. How does Benvolio say the fighting began? Is he truthful?

6. According to Benvolio and Montague, how has Romeo been acting recently?

7. How does Romeo explain his behavior?

8. What remedy does Benvolio suggest for Romeo's problems?

Scene 2 (pages 744-747)

9. What does Capulet tell Paris he will have to do in order to marry Juliet?

10. Why does the servant ask Romeo to read the list of guests who are invited to the party at the Capulets?

11. What makes Romeo decide to go to the party?

Scene 3 (pages 748-751)

12. In Scene 3, we learn that Juliet is how old? How old is Lady Capulet?

13. What does Lady Capulet instruct Juliet to do at the party regarding Paris?

14. What does the nurse seem to want for Juliet?

15. What is the nurse's opinion of Paris?

Scene 4 (page 752-755)

16. Where does Scene 4 take place?

17. In lines 19-22 and 25-26, how does Romeo indicate he is feeling?

18. How do Romeo, Mercutio, and Benvolio plan to hide their identity at the Capulet's party?

19. In lines 70-88, what is Queen Mab doing in her travels?

20. What feelings about dreams does Mercutio express in lines 96-103?

21. At the end of Scene Four, what does Romeo fear?

Scene 5 (pages 756-761)

22. How does Romeo react when he first sees Juliet?

23. To what does Romeo compare Juliet?

24. When Tybalt tells Capulet that Romeo is present, what does Capulet say?

25. How does Juliet feel about Romeo?

26. What surprising discovery do Romeo and Juliet make about each other?

27. Are Romeo's and Juliet's first reactions to each other guided more by reason or emotion? Explain.

ACT 2 QUESTIONS**Scene 1 (pages 764-765)**

28. What does Mercutio say about "blind love"?

Scene 2 (pages 766-773)

29. What two aspects of Juliet's beauty does Romeo discuss in lines 15-25?

30. How does Juliet say she feels about Romeo's name in lines 33-48?

31. Why does Romeo surprise Juliet with his presence in line 52? He *has* been speaking all along...

32. Why does Romeo refer to Juliet as a "saint"? (hint: what is a *saint*?)

33. Juliet said the walls are “high and hard to climb”. How did Romeo say he climbed the wall? Does he mean this literally?

34. In lines 95-104, how does Juliet say she *should* have behaved when the two met? How would this have been to her advantage?

35. In lines 117-124, how does Juliet say she feels about this relationship?

36. In lines 139-141, what does Romeo fear about the relationship?

37. In lines 142-48, what do they decide to do about the relationship?

38. Is their decision appropriate considering time, place, and situation?

39. Who is Romeo going to consult about them? Why this choice?

Scene 3 (pages 774-776)

40. In lines 24-27, what powers does Friar Lawrence suggest that the flower possesses?

41. What does Romeo ask Friar Lawrence to do?

42. What concerns does Friar Lawrence have based on Romeo’s past love relationships in lines 70-81?

43. How does Romeo say his love for Juliet differs from his love for Rosaline?

44. Why does Friar Lawrence agree to help?

Scene 4 (pages 777-782)

45. How long after the Capulet's party does Scene 4 take place?

46. Why has Tybalt sent a letter to Romeo's house?

47. What change in Romeo's mood does Mercutio notice?

48. Why does Romeo keep this secret from his friends?

49. What warning does the nurse give Romeo in lines 153-159?

50. What message does Romeo give the nurse to tell Juliet?

51. How does the nurse seem to feel as she departs from Romeo?

Scene 5 (pages 782-784)

52. At the beginning of Scene 5, why is Juliet annoyed?

53. Why is the nurse slow to give Juliet the message?

54. What permission does Juliet have and how is it important to the action?

Scene 6 (pages 785-786)

55. What fears does Friar Lawrence express in Scene Six?

56. In lines 35-37, what does Friar Lawrence say they must do quickly?

57. Describe Friar Lawrence's character.

58. How soon after they meet do Romeo and Juliet marry?

ACT 3 QUESTIONS**Scene 1 (pages 790-795)**

59. Why has Tybalt come looking for Romeo?

60. What does Romeo say to Tybalt?

61. What does Mercutio do?

62. How does Romeo contribute to Mercutio's death?

63. Explain what Romeo says in lines 115-117.

64. What is the outcome of the fight between Romeo and Tybalt?

65. What punishment does Escalus give Romeo?

Scene 2 (pages 796-799)

66. What news does the nurse bring Juliet?

67. Why does Juliet defend Romeo?

68. At the end of Scene Two, what does Juliet ask the nurse to do?

Scene 3 (pages 800-805)

69. What is Romeo's reaction when Friar Laurence tells him that Escalus has banished him?

70. Briefly summarize what Friar Laurence says to Romeo in lines 108-145.

71. What is Friar Laurence's plan for Romeo?

Scene 4 (pages 805-806)

72. In Scene Four, what does Capulet tell Paris?

Scene 5 (pages 806-815)

73. At the beginning of Scene 5, why do Romeo and Juliet discuss whether it is morning?

74. Lady Capulet thinks that Juliet weeps for Tybalt. What is the real reason for her sorrow?

75. When Lady Capulet tells her daughter that she is to wed Paris, what does Juliet say?

76. What is Capulet's reaction when he learns that Juliet refuses to marry Paris?

77. When Juliet asks her mother to help delay her marriage to Paris, what is her reply?

78. What does the nurse tell Juliet she should do?

79. At the end of Scene 5, why is Juliet so angry with the nurse?

80. How are Juliet's beliefs about love and marriage different from her parents'?

ACT 4 QUESTIONS

Scene 1 (pages 818-822)

81. How does Paris explain to Friar Laurence why his marriage to Juliet is to be soon?

82. How does Paris think Juliet feels about him?

83. What does Juliet say that she will do if she cannot find a way to avoid marrying Paris?

84. Describe Friar Lawrence's plan for reuniting Romeo and Juliet.

Scene 2 (pages 822-824)

85. What activities occur in the Capulet household at the start of Scene 2?

86. In Scene 2, what does Juliet tell her father?

87. Does Capulet understand his daughter's true feelings? Explain.

88. How does Capulet feel at the end of Scene 2?

Scene 3 (pages 824-826)

89. Describe the various fears Juliet has as she gets ready to drink Friar Laurence's potion. Are Juliet's fears realistic?

Scene 4 (pages 827-828)

90. At what time does Scene 4 occur?

91. At the beginning of Scene 4, what preparations are being made for the wedding?

Scene 5 (pages 828-832)

92. How do Capulet, his wife, the nurse, and Paris react when they find Juliet?

93. Are events moving according to Friar Laurence's plan? Explain.

94. What does Friar Laurence tell them?

95. How does Capulet say the preparations for the wedding will be used now?

ACT 5 QUESTIONS

Scene 1 (pages 836-838)

96. Why is Romeo feeling cheerful at the beginning of Scene 1?

97. What news does Balthasar bring Romeo?

98. After hearing Balthasar's news, where does Romeo plan to go?

99. Why does Romeo think the apothecary will sell him poison?

100. Describe what Friar Lawrence plans to do when he reaches Juliet in the tomb.

Scene 2 (838-839)

101. How is Friar John prevented from going to Mantua to deliver Friar Laurence's letter?

102. Why does Friar Laurence feel he must go quickly to Juliet in the tomb?

Scene 3 (839-851)

103. Why does Paris go to the Capulet's tomb?

104. What is Romeo's real reason for sending Balthasar away from the tomb?

105. Why does Paris think Romeo has come to the tomb?

106. What emotions does Romeo reveal as he gazes upon Paris, Juliet, and Tybalt in the tomb (lines 74-105)?

107. When Juliet awakens, what does Friar Laurence want her to do?

108. Why does Juliet kiss Romeo?

109. How does Juliet kill herself?

110. What causes Lady Montague's death?

111. What does Friar Laurence tell the Prince regarding the deaths of Juliet, Paris, and Romeo?

112. What does the Prince mean when he says, "All are punished" in line 295?

113. At the conclusion of the play, what happens between the Capulets and Montagues?
